

April 10, 2013

7:00 p.m., Upper Level Meeting Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bedini, Mr. LaMuniere, Mr. Papsin, Mr. Wadelton

MEMBER ABSENT: Ms. Cheney

ALTERNATE ABSENT: Mr. Martino

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Ajello, Mrs. Hill

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Smith, Mr. Astin, Mr. Showalter, Mr. Sabin, Mr. Rosiello, Mr./Mrs. Smith, Mr. Davis

Mr. Bedini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and seated Members Bedini, LaMuniere, Papsin, and Wadelton.

MOTION:

To add the following subsequent business to the agenda:

VII. Enforcement/Letter re: Notice of Violation to Heyman/175 Calhoun Street.

By Mr. Wadelton, seconded by Mr. Papsin, and passed 4-0.

Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION:

To accept the 4/4/13 Collins site inspection minutes as written.

By Mr. Papsin, seconded by Mr. Wadelton, and passed 4-0.

The 3/27/13 Regular Meeting minutes will be considered at the next meeting.

Pending Application

Collins/321, 323 West Shore Road/#W-13-05/Cut Trees, Remove Invasives, Install Paths through Wetlands:

Mr. Rosiello, landscaper, presented his plan, "Landscape Concepts for N. W. Jay Collins," dated April 2013. He proposed to plant 35 trees at the north end of #323 and bordering the wetlands on #321 and 150 native shrubs. He said a change since the last meeting had been the elimination of the two side paths on #321, noting the center path was still proposed. Regarding #321 Mr. LaMuniere said he had no problem with the plan but asked if a boardwalk was proposed. Mr. Rosiello said there probably would not be a boardwalk between wetlands flags #4 and #5, but there would be a four plank wide boardwalk for the rest of the path because that area looks wet and he did not want to impact the flow of water there. Mr. LaMuniere noted the steep slope on #323. Mr. Rosiello proposed no mowing on the slope. Mr. LaMuniere noted the proposal was to cut the majority of trees and he questioned what impact this loss of canopy would have on this very good quality wetlands. Mr. Rosiello said he had tried to keep the trees to be cut to provide a view in as narrow a swath as possible, 60 feet in width, and noted they were not all healthy. He said new

trees would be planted along the wetland border and that the proposed shrubs, which would grow up to 15 feet tall, would cool the wetlands. Mr. LaMuniere noted approximately 350 feet of boardwalk was proposed on #323. He asked why this was proposed entirely in wetlands when there was an alternate route partially in uplands soils 90 feet to the south that would be less destructive to the wetlands. Mr. Rosiello said the proposed route would make it easier to monitor invasives in the wetlands and could be used as a teaching tool for the owner's children. He also said the installation of the boardwalk would be a one time disturbance. Mr. LaMuniere stated, and Mr. Papsin agreed, that this proposal was extreme given there was an alternate route available. Mr. Papsin also thought that most of the trees should not be cut until the newly planted shrubs had time to establish themselves and restore the canopy. Mr. LaMuniere asked if the proposed shrub coverage would provide the equivalent cooling function as the tree canopy to be removed. Mr. Ajello said it was not necessarily bad to open up some of the canopy if a diverse multi story canopy remained. Mr. Rosiello discussed the size, location, and growth rates of the proposed shrubs. Mr. Wadelton said he tended to defer to the plan proposed by the professional and not to change it unless there was a compelling reason and noted that once in place, the boardwalk would be benign. Mr. Papsin, Mr. LaMuniere, and Mr. Bedini said they were OK with the cutting of the trees and planting of native shrubs, but asked if there was a compromise location for the boardwalk. It was agreed that the path could cross the lawn and swale and enter the wetlands in the vicinity of wetlands flag #9. Mr. LaMuniere noted this would cut the work proposed in the wetlands by half. Mr. Rosiello will consult with Mr. Collins. Mr. Ajello noted the drainage at the top of #321 and asked if any mitigation was proposed. Mr. Rosiello said he would talk to the Country Club regarding cleaning out the swale to divert some of the water away from the property and said there would be no mowing of the steep slope and that a wildflower mix would be used to restore the toe of the slope on the west side of the driveway. Mr. Ajello recommended temporary monuments to define/protect the wildflower area until it is established. Mr. Bedini asked that all of this work be added to the plan. Mr. Ajello noted that someone had excavated an unauthorized conduit trench along the watercourse. The commissioners agreed that the removal by hand of the invasive plants could begin immediately.

New Application

The Gunnery, Inc./100 Green Hill Road/#W-13-06/Renovate Soccer Field:

Mr. Smith, surveyor, Mr. Astin, engineer, and Mr. Showalter from The Gunnery represented The Gunnery. The plans, "Soccer Field Renovation," 5 sheets, by Smith and Company and Buck and Buck, submitted 4/3/13 were reviewed. Mr. Smith pointed out the location of the field, the contours, and the wetlands flags. He stated the proposal is to correct the problem of standing water on three areas of the field per a carefully engineered plan by Buck and Buck. He noted the existing septic system is located under the field and that the 100 ft. regulated area runs through the southern corner of the field. Mr. Astin said all of the proposed work would take place on the grass area within the existing fence and would not touch the sloped area. He briefly reviewed the proposed work and construction sequence, which, he said, was based on recommendations by the UConn Cooperative Service to improve the drainage. Top soil will be stripped to a depth of 10 inches and stockpiled on site. A series of underdrains will be installed just below the surface over which septic sand and then top soil will be spread. Irrigation for the field will also be installed. All the stockpiled material will be reused on site and the resulting unified slope will be 2.2%. Mr. Astin detailed the erosion control measures to be installed and said the field would be sodded after the final grading. Storm drainage will tie into the existing storm drainage system and outlet, which already has a rip

rapped apron. Post work peak drainage flows will not change, nor will the size of the field. Mr. Astin said the work was scheduled to be done between May 15 and June 30 so that the new sod would be ready for the school's fall sports. Mr. Smith noted the detailed erosion and sedimentation control plan was included on sheet #5 and said he would revise the submission to include information requested by Mrs. Hill in her 4/8/13 email.

Enforcement

Smith/22 Parsonage Lane/Non Compliance with Permit #IW-11-48:

At the last meeting the commissioners had requested that Mr. Ajello write to the property owners to ask that they attend the next meeting to explain why the work done had not been according to the approved plan. Mr. Sabin, landscape architect, responded point by point to Mr. Ajello's 3/28/13 letter. Question #2: Why was a 2 ft. deep sediment basin substituted for the rain garden? Mr. Sabin said the rain garden had been constructed with a 2 ft. berm as approved. However, the wetland emergent plug plants had not yet been planted, but this would be done this spring. Mr. Sabin added that the rain garden soil profile had not been included on Mr. Neff's plan, but the soils used were the same as those used for the Lake Waramaug biofilter. Mr. Ajello asked if the basin would require maintenance. Mr. Sabin said this would be minimal. It was the consensus that the rain garden construction was OK. Question #1: Were there changes to the underground drainage plan? Mr. Sabin said the original plans had shown one pipe off the roof leaders, but two side by side pipes from the foundation drains had been installed in the same location. Mr. Ajello said the drain flows to the bio swale area. #3: When asked why so much stormwater bypasses the drainage system, Mr. Sabin said it was because the job was not yet completed. He said the driveway still had to be regraded and the curb stones installed. He pointed out the direction of the stormwater runoff and how the curb would direct it to the rain garden. Mr. Ajello added that some of the water would infiltrate when the pervious pavement was installed. Mr. Sabin also pointed out that one of the catch basins was not yet fully functional. #4 and #5: Was the boulder reinforced planted berm along the driveway redesigned? How will the mulch be retained when the erosion controls are removed? Mr. Sabin said the boulders were no longer needed for stabilization since the driveway location had been shifted allowing for a more gradual grade in that area. He said the plants would hold the berm. #6 and #7: Why are there two pipes instead of one entering the bio swale and why do they exit further into the swale than specified on the plan? Mr. Sabin said these pipes had since been cut and were now beneath the stones. The Commission asked Mr. Sabin to submit a revised plan showing all of the revisions and a letter to request the revision of Permit #IW-11-48 accompanied by the \$25 fee. Mr. Ajello read three letters dated 4/5/13, 4/8/13, and 4/10/13 from Mr. Caroe, the adjoining property owner. It was the consensus that the improvements made to date as well the completion of the work still to be done would address most of Mr. Caroe's concerns. It was noted, however, that the adjoining Caroe property had wetlands soils and that it was not the Commission's responsibility to resolve long standing drainage problems in this area.

Other Business

Ficalora/10 Sunrise Lane/#IW-03-55/Request for 5 Year Extension:

It was noted there were no changes proposed to the approved plans. Mr. Ajello pointed out that this would be the second five year renewal, making this a 15 year permit, which he thought exceeded the maximum permitted. He will research the statutes to find out if this is allowed and will report

back at the next meeting.

Canal/142 Sabbaday Lane/Notification of State Permit for Aquatic Weed Control:

Although the state has issued a permit, a local Inland Wetlands permit is also required. Mr. Canal has not yet applied for the local permit. Mr. Ajello will notify Mr. Canal that this is required.

Enforcement

In addition to the information already listed in Mr. Ajello's 4/10/13 Enforcement Report, the following was discussed:

Heymman/175 Calhoun Street:

Mr. Ajello reported that although there had been unauthorized work in a regulated area near a hillside seep, a report by a soil scientist indicated there were no wetlands in the area disturbed. He said more documentation was needed; either the wetlands should be flagged on the property or a more accurate soils report map submitted. Mr. Ajello thought it would be helpful if recent improvements to the property were also put on the map. It was the consensus that the Commission should have an accurate map before conducting a site inspection.

Hochberg/15/Couch Road/Unauthorized Excavation of Pond and Deposition of Material:

Mr. Wadelton and Mr. Papsin asked if Mr. Hochberg had ever paid his citation. He had not because the Selectmen's Office has not scheduled the required citation hearing. It was estimated this violation is two years old and so the Selectmen will again be urged to schedule the hearing.

There was no administrative business to discuss, nor was there any reason to hold an executive session.

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Wadelton.

Mr. Bedini adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,
Janet M. Hill
Land Use Administrator